

There are TWO sides to EVERY issue. Democracy CANNOT exist without a free and fair presentation to the people of BOTH sides of public issues. In America today we have lost sight of these fundamental notions. We have become a nation of people who believe that winning is more important than the maintenance of a free and fair arena for the exchange of opposing ideas.

The decision I see increasingly being made is that winning is more important than the maintaining of a true democratic arena. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of this trend. The dangers of media consolidation are clearly in evidence with this recent proposal of theirs.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.